



Cairo Healthy Neighborhood Program

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USAID Asia Near East (ANE) health programming has not kept pace with the region's rampant urbanization and the health needs of urban slum dwellers, in particular, children living in the vast and growing cities of Asia and the Near East. Recognizing this, USAID ANE Regional Bureau launched a three-phase Urban Health Initiative. During Phase I, a literature review of existing studies on child health in urban slums in select countries of the ANE region was completed by EHP (EHP Activity Report 109). Phase II called for implementation of demonstration urban health programs. Cairo was one of the case studies selected in the desktop study, and with support from USAID/Egypt Mission, a demonstration program—the Cairo Healthy Neighborhood Program—was initiated in 2002. Ezbet El Nawar, the slum community selected for the program, ranks among Cairo's most destitute areas. Its residents are mostly "zabbaleen" or traditional garbage collectors/recyclers, who live and work in the garbage and waste collected from nearby neighborhoods.

The Program Approach

The approach used in the Cairo program was multi-phased and involved: a participatory situation analysis; a neighborhood stakeholders' workshop; and a government/donor/NGO stakeholders' meeting. Building neighborhood capacity to take action to improve their own situation was the underlying principle of the Cairo program.

The Situation Analysis

The analysis was simple, participatory and rapid. The methodology included: community meetings involving Ezbet El Nawar residents to assess health and hygiene conditions in their community; a review of available literature with information

relevant to Ezbet El Nawar or similar neighborhoods; and a rapid, qualitative assessment of family health in Ezbet El Nawar. The qualitative assessment involved: transect walks crisscrossing the neighborhood; focus group discussions; key informant interviews; and visits to area health facilities. The situation analysis findings provided the basis for follow-on discussions at the neighborhood stakeholders' workshop and at the government/donor/NGO stakeholder meeting.

Neighborhood Stakeholders' Workshop

The workshop was the first of two stakeholders' meetings. Participants representing communities and local organizations living and working in the Ezbet El Nawar neighborhood attended the workshop.



Women of Ezbet El Nawar discuss community priorities for action

The workshop objective was to identify priority health problems of Ezbet El Nawar families based on information collected from the literature review and the situation analysis and to collectively define the best "workable" options for improving the neighborhood health situation. The challenge of the workshop was to provide the information in a



simple, easy-to-use format to enable participants to make informed decisions. Some innovative methods used in the workshop included “gallery walks” of situation analysis results; “out of 10 people” visuals; and a discussion of “lessons learned” from another zabbaleen neighborhood in Cairo.

Three priority areas for action were identified by the participants at the workshop: (1) basic sanitation, clean water and clean air; (2) improved child health, nutrition and development; and (3) safe motherhood.

Government/Donor/NGO Stakeholders’ Meeting

This was the second stakeholders’ meeting held under the Cairo program, and participants included representatives from the Cairo municipal government, government health officials from the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), USAID, and several NGOs. At the meeting, priority areas identified at the neighborhood stakeholders’ workshop were discussed, committees were formed, and roles, responsibilities and priority actions were identified through a problem-solving process.

Results of the Stakeholders’ Meetings

- A committee was formed to address the water and sewage issues, and a local NGO was identified to conduct a short-term awareness campaign to reduce risks related to water, sanitation and air pollution.
- USAID/Egypt was awarded a grant from EGAT/Urban Programs/Making Cities Work to improve the water and sanitation conditions in the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood was added to the MOHP mobile health clinic/immunization services circuit, and MOHP opened a small health clinic in the neighborhood.

- World Education was tasked to develop urban slum oriented, literacy materials and training on hygiene improvement messages for use in Ezbet El Nawar and other Cairo neighborhoods.

Building Neighborhood Capacity

- Building neighborhood capacity to take action to improve their own situation was the underlying principle of the Cairo program.
- The participatory situation analysis and the neighborhood stakeholders’ workshop methods were important mechanisms to build neighborhood skills in interpreting and using information to identify neighborhood problems and how the neighborhood could play a role in improving their own health problems.
- The methods helped strengthen neighborhood capacity to work effectively toward a common goal shared by area residents and allowed immediate problems to be addressed, while initiating a “snowball” effect to spur continued future neighborhood action.

EHP is implementing the Cairo Healthy Neighborhood Program in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, with support from USAID/ANE Regional Bureau, USAID/EGAT/Urban Programs and USAID/Egypt.

For detailed information, see EHP *Activity Report 123. Cairo Healthy Neighborhood Program: Situation Analysis with Literature Review and Stakeholder Meetings*.

The report can be downloaded from the EHP website: <http://www.ehproject.org>.

To request a hard copy of the report, please email info@ehproject.org.